IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Augustus Mullins, et al.	§	Examiner:	
		§		
Serial No.:	unknown	§	Group At Unit:	
		§		
Filed:	herewith	§	Docket:	D7661-10
		§		
Title:	Tubular Filling System	§		

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please make the following amendments to the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the first paragraph on page 1, and insert the following paragraph:

This application is a divisional application claiming priority from U.S. patent application number 09/635,150, filed on August 8, 2000, which is a continuation in part application claiming priority from U.S. patent application number 09/161,051, filed on September 25, 1998.

IN THE CLAIMS

A clean version of amended claims 7 and 8, appears below. A marked up version appears in the attached Appendix.

7. (amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said mud saver valve further comprises:

a biased shifting sleeve; said flapper engaging said shifting sleeve when flow is from said upper to said lower end through said port to overcome said bias on said sleeve.

8. (amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said mud saver valve further comprises:

a seat in said shifting sleeve;

a ball retained movably in said shifting sleeve;

at least one port in said shifting sleeve;

whereupon application of pressure to said ball when on said seat from said upper end of said mandrel said port in said shifting sleeve is moved with respect to said ball to define a flow passage which excludes said ball.

Please add the following new claim:

21. A tubular fill up and circulating tool comprising:

a body having a passage there through, said body comprising a stationary and a movable component;

said movable component selectively movable for sealing engagement with the outer periphery of the tubular;

wherein the tubular has a long bore and an upset or coupling adjacent to the long bore and, wherein:

said movable component has an open cross-sectional area at least as large as the tubular long bore;

said movable component engages internally in the upset or coupling of the tubular.

Respectfully submitted,

1/18/02
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence along with any referred to as attached or enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV050727272US, postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231on this 18 day of January, 2002.

Tracie Thigpen

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APPENDIX

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 in the specification as follows:

[This application is a continuation in part of application 09/161,051 filed on September 25, 1998.] This application is a divisional application claiming priority from U.S. patent application number 09/635,150, filed on August 8, 2000, which is a continuation in part application claiming priority from U.S. patent application number 09/161,051, filed on September 25, 1998.

Please amend the following claims a follows:

7. (amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said mud saver valve further comprises:

a biased shifting sleeve; said flapper engaging said shifting sleeve when flow is from said upper to said lower end through said port to overcome said bias on said sleeve.

8. (amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said mud saver valve further comprises:

a seat in said shifting sleeve;

a ball retained movably in said shifting sleeve;

at least one port in said shifting sleeve;

whereupon application of pressure to said ball when on said seat from said upper end of said mandrel said port in said shifting sleeve is moved with respect to said ball to define a flow passage which excludes said ball.